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ABSTRACT

The 1997 poll is a national survey of 1,702 adults, conducted between March 21 and April 20, 1997. The survey has 3 components: 850 adults from the national population, 850 African American adults, and 100 Hispanic Americans. The survey's questions cover a broad range of topics, including race relations, politics, devolution, social policy, and children. This release covers findings about politics. On a variety of issues of public policy, there is a remarkable similarity between the views of blacks and whites, and there is a national consensus on balancing the budget. Overall, blacks continue to regard themselves as Democrats, but they continue to be evenly divided among the categories of liberal, moderate, and conservative. People of all three categories regarded the performance of President Clinton as superior to that of Congress. Blacks and the general population agree on most actions to balance the budget, and neither group supports cuts in education, with only 3.7% of blacks surveyed and 8.2% of the general population in favor of education cuts. A somewhat higher proportion of the general population than blacks supports cuts to welfare spending. Both blacks and the general population view crime as the greatest problem facing the nation. Respondents were asked to rate their feelings toward eight prominent public figures. Some differences in respondent educational level to these public figures are noted. Information about respondents' views on children and race relations are found in earlier releases. An appendix discusses survey methodology. (Contains 14 tables and 4 figures, which comprise over half the document.) (SLD)

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THE JOINT CENTER FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES

1997 National Opinion Poll— *Politics*

David A. Bositis

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1997

National

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Poll—

Politics

The 1997 Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies National Opinion Poll is a national survey of 1,702 adults, conducted between March 21 and April 20, 1997. The survey's questions cover a broad range of topics, including race relations, politics, devolution, social policy, and children.

The survey has three components: a sample of 850 adults from the national population, a sample of 850 adults from the national African American population, and an oversample of 100 Hispanics. The survey methodology is described in an accompanying appendix.

The first two releases of the findings from the survey dealt with race relations and children. This release is on politics. In the following months, the Joint Center will release findings on the other topics identified above.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

▶ BLACKS AND WHITES SHARE PUBLIC POLICY VIEWS THAT ARE IN THE CENTER OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM.

An earlier release on race relations from the Joint Center's 1997 National Opinion Poll reported that black and white views continue to diverge on the significance of race in this country. However, on a variety of specific issues of public policy, there is a remarkable similarity of views across race, with that agreement generally located toward the center of the political spectrum. In our survey, both blacks and whites express more confidence in President Clinton than in the Republican Congress. More important, there is a national consensus on balancing the budget, with large proportions of both blacks and whites preferring to forego tax cuts in order to achieve that goal. In fact, the proposal to achieve a balanced budget that gains the most support is for a tax increase—on tobacco and liquor.

SURVEY RESPONSES

The following more detailed analysis highlights key statistical findings from the survey, organized by survey question. Attached to the end of this report are tables that provide comprehensive statistics for each question, organized by a variety of demographic and other respondent characteristics.

MOST IMPORTANT NATIONAL PROBLEMS (Table 1)

▶ IN THE LAST YEAR, BOTH BLACKS AND WHITES HAVE CHANGED THEIR VIEWS ON WHAT CONSTITUTE THE NATION'S MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEMS.

Although blacks and whites continue to differ somewhat in what they view as the most important national problems, both groups have changed their assessments significantly since the Joint Center's last survey in January 1996. Among blacks, about one in four volunteer violent crime as the most important national problem (24.5 percent). This is followed by the economy (14.6 percent) and drugs (11.7 percent). Crime is at the top of the list for whites as well, with 17.2 percent identifying crime as the top problem. Whites identify government

corruption and taxes as the number two problem (12.0 percent). Except for those responses, no other problem reaches a level of response in double figures. Compared with 1996, there is a sharp drop in those mentioning the economy and balancing the budget as the most important national problems. In 1996, 29.2 percent of blacks and 32.3 percent of whites mentioned economic issues—jobs, the economy, and balancing the budget—as the number one problem. In 1997, only 15.8 percent of blacks (a 45 percent decline) and 11.4 percent of whites (a 64 percent decline) mention these problems.

Hispanics identify drugs as the top problem (17.9 percent), followed by the economy (15.6 percent) and crime (14.4 percent).

BLACK PARTISANSHIP (Figure 1)

▶ THE VAST MAJORITY OF BLACKS CONTINUE TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS DEMOCRATS.

There is comparatively little change in black partisan identification since the Joint Center's last survey. In 1997, 82 percent of African Americans identify themselves as Democrats (Figure 1a), unchanged since last time. The level of Democratic partisanship has remained remarkably stable since the Joint Center's first National Opinion Poll in 1984. During that period, black Democratic identification has ranged between a low of 77 percent in 1984 and a high of 86 percent in 1992; 1997's level of 82 percent is exactly in the center of the range. Among all subgroups of the black population, the most Republican is the 26–35 year old age cohort, among whom 17 percent identify with the GOP (Figure 1b). Black baby boomers (age 36–50) are the least Republican group, with only 3 percent identifying with the GOP. Overall, there has been no change in the proportion of blacks who identify as Republicans since 1996 (Figure 1c); however, there is a modest decline (13 percent) in Republican identification among those 18–25 (from 13.8 to 12.0 percent).

SELF-IDENTIFIED IDEOLOGY (Figures 2a and 2b)

▶ BLACKS CONTINUE TO BE EVENLY DIVIDED AMONG THE CATEGORIES OF LIBERAL, MODERATE, AND CONSERVATIVE.

Also unchanged from the recent surveys, the black population is evenly divided into self-described liberals, moderates, and conservatives (32 percent each). Almost all (81 percent) black self-identified conservatives identify themselves as Christian conservatives. Half of the general population sample identify themselves as conservatives (one-quarter as liberal and 22 percent as moderate), with two-thirds of the conservatives identifying themselves as Christian conservatives.

PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL JOB RATINGS (Tables 2 and 3)

▶ BLACKS, WHITES, AND HISPANICS ALL RATE PRESIDENT CLINTON'S JOB PERFORMANCE CONSIDERABLY BETTER THAN THAT OF THE CONGRESS.

Among blacks, 60.5 percent give him excellent or good marks, while 37.5 percent rate his job performance as fair or poor. More whites (60.6 percent) rate Clinton's job performance as fair or poor than excellent or good (39.1 percent). Hispanics are similar to blacks in their

ratings with 54.1 percent rating Clinton's job performance as excellent or good, while 37.9 percent rate his performance as fair or poor.

Among blacks, the elderly rate Clinton's job performance most highly (81.6 percent excellent or good), while black Republicans give Clinton's job performance the poorest rating of all black subgroups (only 34.3 percent excellent or good). Among the general population, Clinton fares best with liberals (68.5 percent excellent or good) and Democrats (61.8 percent), and poorest with Republicans (20.5 percent excellent or good) and secular conservatives (21.7 percent).

Congress's job ratings are generally very poor with all groups. Blacks giving fair or poor marks outnumber those giving excellent or good marks by more than three to one (74.3 to 22.4 percent). Whites rate Congress even more unfavorably, with only 16.7 percent rating Congress's job performance as excellent or good. Hispanics are, comparatively speaking, most favorably disposed to Congress, with 28.2 percent rating its job performance as excellent or good.

In both the black and the general population samples, less than 30 percent of every subgroup rates Congress's job performance as excellent or good, and more than 60 percent rate it as fair or poor.

ACTIONS TO BALANCE THE BUDGET (Tables 4a, 4b, 5a, and 5b)

▶ **BLACKS AND WHITES AGREE ON MOST ACTIONS TO BALANCE THE BUDGET, INCLUDING DEFERRING TAX CUTS UNTIL THE BUDGET IS BALANCED.**

Given that both blacks and whites rate Clinton's job performance more favorably than that of the Congress, we inquired about what actions they would support to balance the budget, and Clinton's budget positions, admittedly flexible, generally fared better than those preferred by the Republican Congress. Most important, there is substantial support for deferring tax cuts, along with support for certain tax increases and considerable reluctance to rein in the Medicare program.

There is substantial agreement between the choices of the black and general populations on actions to take to balance the federal budget. In both population samples, about 65 percent favor "sin" taxes, that is, taxes on cigarettes and liquor. A somewhat higher proportion of the general population favor cutting welfare spending (55.9 percent) than is the case in the black population sample (43.3 percent). About 45 percent of both the general and the black population favor no tax cuts until the budget is balanced. A somewhat higher proportion of the black population favors defense cuts (41.9 percent) than do the general population (34.4 percent). Somewhere between 20 and 30 percent of each sample favors cuts in elderly entitlement programs (Medicare, Medicaid, and downward CPI adjustment). There is little support for a gas tax increase in either population sample (about 20 percent), and even less for education cuts (3.7 percent in the black population and 8.2 percent in the general population).

In the black population sample, except for additional sin taxes, the only actions supported by a majority of any subgroup are deferring tax cuts (northeasterners: 54.5 percent; the 26–35 year age cohort: 54.4 percent; Christian conservatives: 50.7 percent; college educated:

52.8 percent; and upper income groups: 50.0 and 53.9 percent); cutting welfare (liberals: 50.7 percent; lower middle income: 52.9 percent; and baby boomers: 52.9 percent); and cutting defense (baby boomers: 57.0 percent; political moderates: 53.5 percent; and the college educated (64.6 percent).

In the general population sample, except for higher sin taxes and reduced welfare spending, the only proposal to gain majority support in any subgroup is no tax cuts (northeasterners: 52.0 percent; and political moderates: 52.4 percent).

POLICY PROPOSALS (Table 6)

▶ ON THE FIVE CURRENT PUBLIC POLICY PROPOSALS, BLACKS, HISPANICS, AND WHITES ARE SUBSTANTIALLY IN AGREEMENT, WITH NO MAJORITIES IN ANY OF THE THREE GROUPS HOLDING OPINIONS OPPOSITE FROM THOSE IN THE OTHER GROUPS.

Balancing the federal budget. There is close to unanimous support among blacks, Hispanics, and whites for balancing the federal budget.

Gun control. Large majorities of blacks (77.8 percent), Hispanics (74.5 percent), and whites (70.2 percent) favor stronger restrictions on the sale and use of handguns.

Defense spending. Large majorities of blacks and whites oppose increasing defense spending. A majority of Hispanics also oppose an increase; however, the division among Hispanics is quite close.

Spending on prisons and law enforcement. Large majorities of whites and Hispanics favor increasing government spending on prisons and law enforcement. A majority of blacks likewise support the increase but by a considerably smaller majority (51.1 to 44.9 percent).

Food stamps for legal immigrants. Large majorities of blacks and Hispanics favor providing food stamps to legal immigrants. A majority of whites also supports this; however, it is a considerably smaller majority (51.3 to 47.3 percent).

FEELINGS TOWARD PUBLIC FIGURES (Tables 7–14 and Figures 3a, 3b, 4a, and 4b)

▶ BLACKS RATE CLINTON MORE FAVORABLY THAN ANY OTHER PUBLIC FIGURE, INCLUDING COLIN POWELL. WITH WHITES, IT IS PRECISELY THE REVERSE: COLIN POWELL'S FAVORABILITY RATING IS HIGHER THAN CLINTON'S.

The respondents in the survey were asked to rate their feelings toward eight public figures, four black and four white. These ratings of public figures have been included in Joint Center surveys since 1992, with certain prominent national leaders included in each survey (Bill Clinton, Jesse Jackson, Colin Powell) and others rotated in (Trent Lott) or out (Bob Dole) as leaders change. Included in these questions was an explicit name recognition feature; prior to examining how the public feels about these public figures, their level of public recognition will be noted (Figures 3b and 4b).

In the black population, Bill Clinton and Jesse Jackson are universally known, with Vice President Al Gore only slightly less known, closely followed by Louis Farrakhan, retired General Colin Powell, and House Speaker Newt Gingrich. Oklahoma congressman J.C. Watts

is unknown to 42.2 percent of those interviewed, and Senate majority leader Trent Lott is unknown to 47.7 percent.

In the general population, Bill Clinton, Jesse Jackson, Al Gore, Newt Gingrich, and Colin Powell are more or less universally known to the public. More than one in seven in the general public has never heard of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. J.C. Watts is also largely unknown to the general public, with 42.2 percent of those interviewed saying they had never heard of him. Similarly, Trent Lott is also largely unknown to the general public with 47.7 percent indicating that they had never heard of him.

Bill Clinton (Table 7). In the black population sample, more people have favorable feelings toward Bill Clinton than any other figure asked about in the survey. Whites rate Clinton more favorably than not, although much less so than blacks. Among whites, the only figure with higher favorable ratings than Clinton is Colin Powell. In the black sample, 89 percent rate their feelings toward Clinton as favorable, while only 9.4 percent rate them as unfavorable. Among whites, Clinton's favorable-to-unfavorable ratio is 56.2 to 40.7 percent. Hispanics are closer to blacks than whites in rating Clinton, with a 77.8 to 15.0 favorable-to-unfavorable ratio.

There are no subgroups of the black population that do not view Clinton favorably. Among the general population, self-identified liberals (86 percent favorable), moderates (77.5 percent), Democrats (80.2 percent), those without a high school diploma (78.1 percent), and low-income people (78.9 percent) rate Clinton most favorably. Conservatives, both secular (58.9 percent unfavorable) and Christian (55.9 percent unfavorable), and Republicans (63.2 percent unfavorable) are most negative on Clinton.

Al Gore (Table 8). Vice President Al Gore is rated somewhat less favorably than Clinton. Among blacks, 67.8 percent rate him favorably, while 15.1 percent rate him unfavorably. Gore's favorable-to-unfavorable ratio among whites is 51.3 to 38.4 percent, which is somewhat poorer than Clinton's, and his rating by Hispanics is substantially poorer, with 53.6 percent rating him favorably, and 28.4 percent rating him unfavorably.

Among the black subgroups, Gore is most favorably viewed by the elderly (75.5 percent favorable), the college educated (78.1 percent), and those with higher incomes (74.5 percent). He is least favorably viewed by the 18–25 year age cohort, with 58.8 percent rating him favorably. Like Clinton, he is rated most unfavorably by conservatives and Republicans.

Jesse Jackson (Table 9). The Reverend Jesse Jackson is rated almost as favorably as Clinton among blacks, while whites rate their feelings toward him as more unfavorable than favorable, although both groups see him more favorably than they did in the 1996 poll.* In the black population sample, Jackson's favorable-to-unfavorable ratings are 86.6 to 8.1 percent. Among whites, his unfavorables are greater than his favorables by five to three, 29.9 to 50.0 percent. Hispanics rate Reverend Jackson quite highly, 67.8 percent favorable to 11.2 percent unfavorable.

Jackson's ratings are uniformly favorable across all subgroups of the black population. In the general population sample, younger people (43.9 percent favorable to 43.4 percent

* Among blacks, Jackson's ratings improved from 76 percent favorable to 16.7 percent unfavorable in 1996 to 86.6 to 8.1 percent in 1997. Among the general population, his ratings improved from 33.7 to 50.3 percent in 1996 to 36.2 to 44.7 percent in 1997.

unfavorable), self-identified liberals (48.5 to 25.5 percent) and moderates (45.0 to 34.7 percent), Democrats (46.1 to 33.1 percent), those lacking a high school diploma (58.4 to 20.6 percent), and poor people (53.7 to 35.0 percent) rate Jackson favorably. Secular conservatives (67.0 percent unfavorable to 21.5 percent favorable), Republicans (58.9 to 25.0 percent), and upper middle-income people (61.5 to 22.5 percent) rate him least favorably.

Colin Powell (Table 10). Retired General Colin Powell is rated favorably by every subgroup in both the black and the general population samples. That being said, it is interesting to note, his ratings tend to be opposite those of Jackson. Powell fares better with whites than blacks, with older rather than younger people, with conservatives and Republicans more than with liberals and Democrats, and with those with the most education and the highest incomes rather than those with the least.

Powell's favorable-to-unfavorable ratings among blacks are 69.7 percent favorable to 11.0 percent unfavorable; among whites they are 78.4 to 7.9 percent favorable to unfavorable; and among Hispanics, they are 54.9 to 13.3 percent favorable to unfavorable. More than twice as many Hispanics as whites or blacks don't know enough about Powell to rate him.

Trent Lott (Table 11). Senate majority leader Trent Lott remains a mostly unknown face on the national stage. Among blacks, 80 percent do not know enough about him to rate their feelings toward him; similarly Lott is an unknown quantity to 67.6 percent of whites and 83.8 percent of Hispanics. Lott's favorable-to-unfavorable ratings are 13.1 to 5.0 percent among blacks, 23.1 to 5.5 percent among whites, and 10.4 to 5.1 percent among Hispanics. Among blacks, Lott is most favorably viewed by Republicans and least favorably by the young. In the general population, the elderly, secular conservatives, and Republicans view Lott most favorably; those in the pre-retirement age cohort view him least favorably.

J.C. Watts (Table 12). The rising young black Republican congressman from Oklahoma, J.C. Watts, is for the most part, like Trent Lott, an unknown on the national stage. Almost three-quarters of blacks and whites don't know enough about him to rate him. His favorable-to-unfavorable ratings are quite similar among blacks, whites, and Hispanics; blacks rate him 16.4 to 8.3 percent favorable to unfavorable, whites 16.4 to 8.5 percent, and Hispanics 18.5 to 8.1 percent. Among blacks, Watts is most popular with Republicans (33.4 to 0.0 percent) and, interestingly, least popular among secular conservatives (5.5 percent favorable to 6.6 percent unfavorable). (Representative Watts is a minister and former football star.) In the general population, men, conservatives, and Republicans rate Watts more favorably than other subgroups; women, liberal, and those without a high school diploma like him least.

Newt Gingrich (Table 13). House Speaker Newt Gingrich continues to be a very unpopular political figure in this country. Speaker Gingrich's unfavorable ratings exceed his favorable ones by three to one among blacks (52.4 to 17.4 percent), five to three among whites (50.4 to 34.8 percent), and by more than two to one among Hispanics (54.4 to 20.2 percent).

In the black population sample, self-identified moderates like Gingrich least (8.3 to 63.4 percent favorable to unfavorable), and black Republicans rate him most favorably (38.5 percent favorable to 23.7 percent unfavorable). Among the general population, his ratings break nicely along the defining features of the partisan divide. Comparatively speaking, he is most popular with men, conservatives, Republicans, and those with higher levels of income and education. He is least popular—and that translates to very unpopular—with women, liberals and moderates, Democrats, and those with lower levels of education and income.

Louis Farrakhan (Table 14). There are significant differences across a number of subgroups on feelings toward Nation of Islam head Louis Farrakhan. Among blacks, a slight plurality of the population rate him more favorably than unfavorably (40.1 to 36.8 percent), while whites universally feel negative toward Farrakhan (3.6 percent favorable to 59.4 percent unfavorable). Of the eight public figures, Farrakhan is the most unpopular with whites. Hispanics rate Farrakhan somewhat more favorably than do whites, with 17.6 percent rating him favorably and 32.1 percent rating him unfavorably.

Among blacks, Farrakhan is most favorably viewed by men, young people, and Christian conservatives; elderly people and self-identified independents view Farrakhan least favorably. As noted, Farrakhan is generally disliked among all subgroups of the general population. Those subgroups that dislike him the least include the young and those with the lowest levels of education and income.

APPENDIX

METHODOLOGY

The survey was designed and the questionnaire developed at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. The overall study design consists of three groups: a national general population sample of 850, a national sample of African Americans of 850, and a national sample of 100 Hispanics. There are 80 African-American and 18 Hispanic respondents in the general population sample who are also part of the national samples of African-Americans and Hispanics. Thus, in total, there are 1,702 adults, 18 years of age or older, included in this study.

The survey results are based upon telephone interviews with 1,702 adults conducted between March 21, 1996, and April 20, 1997. The field work was done by Research America) with a sample provided by Survey Sampling. Randomized procedures were used to select respondents within each household reached by telephone. After the initial call, there were at least three "call-backs" if no interview was completed.

The results of this survey for both the general population sample and the black population sample should be interpreted with a statistical margin of error of ±4 percentage points. That is, one can say with 95 percent confidence that the statements made based upon the procedures employed have a random error (sampling error, random measurement error, etc.) component of ±4 percentage points. Actually, this survey like all others does not have a margin of error. The individual items in the survey have margins of error based upon their sample variance, the level of confidence desired (e.g., 95 percent), and sample size.* The ±4 percentage points is a conservative estimate of margin of error; i.e., many items—especially those in which majorities of either sample hold similar positions—have a margin of error much smaller than ±4 percentage points.

In addition to the random error component in surveys, non-random errors may be present. While this survey is based upon random digit dialing techniques that effectively deal with potential problems in telephone surveys such as unlisted numbers, new numbers, etc., non-response in telephone surveys produces a variety of known biases, and probably some unknown ones. Further, a telephone survey by definition has a population of individuals with some reasonable expectation of being reached by telephone. Such a definition, of course, eliminates certain populations; for example, most homeless people and others living in poverty who are not reachable by phone are not part of the sample population. Thus, the statements made based upon this survey are most likely not generalizable to homeless people, black or white.

During the field work phase of the survey, an effort was made to maximize the use of same-race interviewers, and a majority of the interviews were conducted with same-race interviewers, i.e., black interviewers for black respondents and white interviewers for white respondents.

The sample data from the overall survey are weighted in the analyses to population parameters for a variety of demographic factors. The parameters used in this weighting are from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1992 Current Population Survey, and prior Joint Center surveys.

* A random sample is a random subset of a population. One makes observations on suitable units of a random sample in order to make statements about the population and to estimate the error associated with such statements. A common misconception regarding surveys and associated statistical theory, is that 'population' (or population size) is a factor in margin of error. This is not true. Population does not appear in the statistical formulation for margin of error.

TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1

What do you think is the single most important problem facing the country today?

	Black		White		Hispanic
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1997
Economy/jobs/unemployment	19.3%	14.6%	11.0%	5.8%	15.6%
Crime/violence/guns/gangs	18.8	24.5	13.5	17.2	14.4
Balance budget/national debt	9.9	1.2	21.3	5.6	4.5
Education	7.7	7.2	3.6	6.4	11.7
Drugs	7.1	11.7	2.2	7.7	17.9
Racism	5.3	6.5	1.0	2.8	0.0
Poverty/welfare/homelessness	4.6	7.8	6.4	4.8	5.3
Government/taxes/corruption	4.3	5.3	15.7	12.0	4.4
'Family values'/moral decline	3.3	2.2	6.6	7.9	5.1
Seniors' issues	1.6	1.0	2.9	1.2	2.8

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Table 2

How would you rate the job that President Clinton is doing? Is it excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	Black Population				General Population			
	Excellent/ Good	Fair/ Poor	Don't Know	*N*	Excellent/ Good	Fair/ Poor	Don't Know	*N*
TOTAL	60.5%	37.5%	1.9%	850	41.6%	57.9%	0.5%	850
Black					53.8	45.5	0.7	80
Hispanic					54.1	37.9	5.1	100*
White					39.1	60.6	0.4	728
Other					65.2	34.7	0.0	31
Men	62.7	36.2	1.1	391	38.5	61.4	0.2	408
Women	58.7	40.7	2.6	459	44.4	54.7	0.8	443
18–25	56.7	43.3	0.0	125	52.1	47.5	0.4	85
26–35	53.0	45.4	1.6	176	50.0	49.3	0.6	171
36–50	58.6	38.5	2.8	268	33.7	65.6	0.6	301
51–64	67.4	28.7	3.8	161	42.6	56.9	0.6	172
65 and older	81.6	18.4	0.0	84	35.0	65.0	0.0	103
Northeast	44.6	51.2	4.3	169	41.0	59.0	0.0	135
Midwest	72.5	25.9	1.6	174	46.9	52.4	0.8	226
South	61.7	37.0	1.3	421	43.4	56.4	0.2	323
West	62.2	36.7	1.1	85	31.3	67.5	1.2	167
Liberal	67.3	31.3	1.4	268	68.5	30.8	0.8	204
Moderate	61.9	37.4	1.4	268	49.7	50.3	0.8	183
Secular conservative**	44.5	55.5	0.0	51	21.7	77.4	0.9	152
Christian conservative**	56.4	41.1	2.5	218	28.7	70.9	0.4	278
Democrat	65.6	33.6	0.9	700	61.8	37.5	0.6	395
Independent**	40.3	53.3	6.5	59	37.8	60.9	1.3	91
Republican	34.3	61.9	3.7	75	20.5	79.5	0.0	344
Less than high school	58.9	35.6	5.4	181	59.1	38.7	2.2	98
High school graduate	56.4	41.6	2.0	280	39.5	60.3	0.3	245
Some college/tech. school	63.7	35.7	0.6	201	37.5	61.8	0.7	185
College degree or more	66.0	34.0	0.0	169	39.6	60.4	0.0	316
Less than $15,000	49.7	35.6	4.7	130	49.8	50.2	0.0	83
$15,000–35,000	64.0	33.3	2.7	278	38.2	60.3	1.5	214
$35,000–60,000	61.5	37.4	1.1	243	38.5	61.5	0.0	284
More than $60,000	64.8	35.2	0.0	110	44.7	55.3	0.0	199

* The Hispanic oversample of 100 is weighted in the general population to reflect their share of the population.

** A Christian conservative is a self-identified conservative who on a follow-up question self-identifies as a Christian conservative; secular conservatives are the remainder of the self-identified conservatives. On partisanship, Independents who lean toward one of the major parties are grouped with the partisans.

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Table 3

How would you rate the job that Congress is doing? Is it excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	Black Population				General Population			
	Excellent/ Good	Fair/ Poor	Don't Know	*N*	Excellent/ Good	Fair/ Poor	Don't Know	*N*
TOTAL	22.4%	74.3%	3.3%	850	16.6%	80.3%	3.1%	850
Black					12.4	86.2	1.5	80
Hispanic					28.2	61.8	9.9	100*
White					16.7	80.5	2.8	728
Other					25.6	63.3	11.1	31
Men	23.4	73.7	2.8	391	16.7	82.4	1.6	408
Women	22.4	74.8	3.6	459	17.0	78.4	4.6	443
18–25	24.4	73.4	2.2	125	25.4	70.0	4.6	85
26–35	29.1	69.3	1.6	176	20.8	72.9	6.3	171
36–50	20.3	75.2	4.5	268	10.3	88.0	1.8	301
51–64	24.3	73.0	2.7	161	17.9	79.4	2.7	172
65 and older	14.9	78.5	6.6	84	13.6	86.4	0.0	103
Northeast	17.4	79.0	3.6	169	18.6	77.9	3.6	135
Midwest	23.5	70.8	5.7	174	13.7	81.1	5.2	226
South	23.7	73.6	2.8	421	16.3	81.5	2.1	323
West	24.1	75.8	0.0	85	19.2	78.7	2.0	167
Liberal	24.2	72.6	3.1	268	17.1	80.6	2.2	204
Moderate	17.7	80.1	2.3	268	15.1	81.6	3.3	183
Secular conservative**	30.6	69.4	0.0	51	20.6	76.9	2.5	152
Christian conservative**	28.9	69.8	1.3	218	16.6	80.4	3.0	278
Democrat	25.0	72.3	2.7	700	15.9	80.6	3.5	395
Independent**	7.4	88.0	4.6	59	17.4	77.6	5.1	91
Republican	15.7	84.3	0.0	75	17.7	79.9	2.4	344
Less than high school	21.0	73.5	5.5	181	29.5	63.8	6.6	98
High school graduate	28.9	68.0	3.2	280	16.4	80.7	2.9	245
Some college/ technical school	17.3	81.3	1.4	201	16.1	80.1	3.7	185
College degree or more	22.1	74.3	3.6	169	13.1	85.2	1.6	316
Less than $15,000	26.6	65.3	8.1	130	22.5	75.9	1.5	83
$25,000–35,000	24.6	73.2	2.2	278	23.0	74.9	2.0	214
$35,000–60,000	27.4	71.4	1.1	243	11.6	87.1	1.3	284
More than $60,000	13.2	86.8	0.0	110	16.0	79.4	4.7	199

* The Hispanic oversample of 100 is weighted in the general population to reflect their share of the population.

** A Christian conservative is a self-identified conservative who on a follow-up question self-identifies as a Christian conservative; secular conservatives are the remainder of the self-identified conservatives. On partisanship, Independents who lean toward one of the major parties are grouped with the partisans.

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Table 4a

President Clinton and Republican leaders in Congress say they want to balance the federal budget by 2002. Which of the following actions would you support in order to balance the federal budget?

Black population

		Gender		Age					Region				Partisanship		
	Total	Male	Female	18–25	26–35	36–50	51–64	65+	NE	MW	S	W	Dem	Ind	Rep
Raise taxes on liquor and cigarettes	65.5%	59.0%	71.0%	72.5%	57.1%	71.0%	69.5%	55.4%	76.8%	58.3%	66.0%	55.0%	68.2%	57.9%	51.9%
No tax cuts until budget is balanced	45.6	44.9	46.2	42.0	54.4	46.0	45.5	36.5	54.5	45.7	44.0	35.7	46.4	48.3	45.6
Cut welfare spending	43.3	38.4	47.4	47.8	31.1	52.9	40.8	32.6	36.7	46.8	46.7	32.0	45.1	39.4	28.9
Cut defense spending	41.9	48.3	36.5	21.3	38.2	57.0	36.5	35.4	40.1	51.9	40.0	34.6	44.8	45.5	16.4
Reduce the growth in cost for Medicare	27.6	24.6	30.2	34.2	38.7	20.2	20.8	31.5	20.8	33.8	29.0	22.0	27.8	31.1	25.2
Reduce the growth in cost for Medicaid	21.8	22.9	21.0	24.0	32.9	15.6	22.0	14.4	18.2	21.9	23.3	21.5	22.4	17.5	21.4
Cut CPI adjustment for Social Security	19.6	18.9	20.2	23.5	33.6	15.6	10.7	6.6	17.2	27.6	18.1	15.4	19.2	17.5	25.2
Raise gas tax 5¢	19.2	15.0	22.8	11.1	12.5	24.7	23.3	18.2	34.1	20.0	14.9	9.1	18.6	27.7	22.0
Cut education spending	3.7	4.2	3.2	4.9	1.9	2.3	6.1	3.3	2.0	5.1	4.3	1.1	3.6	0.0	8.2

Table 4b

President Clinton and Republican leaders in Congress say they want to balance the federal budget by 2002. Which of the following actions would you support in order to balance the federal budget?

Black population

		Ideology				Education				Household Income			
	Total	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative Secular	Conservative Christian	<High School	High Sch Grad	Some College	College+	<$15,000	$15,000 -35,000	$35,000 -60,000	≥$60,000
Raise taxes on liquor and cigarettes	65.5%	67.6%	67.1%	68.6%	62.3%	58.4%	62.2%	71.7%	73.2%	56.2%	62.7%	79.2%	67.6%
No tax cuts until budget is balanced	45.6	49.0	45.2	36.1	50.7	37.4	48.0	45.0	52.8	40.9	43.0	50.0	53.9
Cut welfare spending	43.3	50.7	47.0	36.1	37.2	32.9	46.1	44.6	47.2	37.4	52.9	46.3	33.4
Cut defense spending	41.9	39.8	53.5	44.5	34.0	22.9	35.1	48.7	64.6	34.3	44.2	47.5	45.5
Reduce the growth in cost for Medicare	27.6	20.4	31.8	24.8	32.0	38.8	29.6	23.3	13.4	39.1	24.3	24.8	18.4
Reduce the growth in cost for Medicaid	21.8	18.2	28.2	19.3	17.7	22.1	29.0	17.4	16.0	14.7	19.5	31.9	17.2
Cut CPI adjustment for Social Security	19.6	18.9	23.0	7.3	19.0	12.0	27.6	16.8	15.0	26.1	17.9	19.4	14.6
Raise gas tax 5¢	19.2	19.4	18.2	18.3	20.1	17.4	15.6	22.8	23.4	17.0	18.8	20.0	23.0
Cut education spending	3.7	2.1	4.7	0.0	6.0	3.6	2.4	4.7	1.6	9.6	1.0	3.9	3.0

Table 5a

President Clinton and Republican leaders in Congress say they want to balance the federal budget by 2002. Which of the following actions would you support in order to balance the federal budget?

General population

	Total	Gender		Age					Region				Partisanship		
		Male	Female	18–25	26–35	36–50	51–64	65+	NE	MW	S	W	Dem	Ind	Rep
Raise taxes on liquor and cigarettes	64.6%	56.7%	71.9%	61.0%	75.3%	66.1%	57.4%	57.0%	67.0%	58.2%	71.7%	57.5%	69.0%	54.4%	62.4%
Cut welfare spending	55.9	58.7	54.2	55.2	52.3	63.8	50.4	55.8	55.3	50.6	59.1	57.7	47.5	49.9	65.7
No tax cuts until budget is balanced	44.3	45.4	43.3	34.0	43.3	45.4	43.7	48.9	52.0	36.6	47.9	41.6	48.9	51.3	36.6
Cut defense spending	34.4	36.9	32.0	34.9	44.5	37.4	26.2	25.1	40.6	33.4	30.3	38.3	36.7	40.7	30.7
Reduce the growth in cost for Medicaid	26.5	26.2	26.9	14.6	23.5	31.5	31.8	20.7	15.8	24.7	32.1	26.8	20.5	13.8	36.0
Reduce the growth in cost for Medicare	26.2	30.0	22.7	22.6	25.8	27.2	27.9	26.0	20.6	27.8	28.0	25.1	18.9	17.4	36.1
Raise gas tax 5¢	20.9	23.9	18.0	7.9	22.8	23.2	20.6	24.7	30.1	21.6	17.7	18.5	21.4	16.1	22.7
Cut CPI adjustment for Social Security	20.7	25.1	16.6	21.4	21.3	24.1	16.7	16.9	15.7	17.3	23.0	24.8	11.8	21.7	29.9
Cut education spending	8.2	9.4	7.0	4.3	8.7	6.3	6.3	18.7	8.6	6.3	9.2	8.4	5.8	10.7	8.9

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Table 5b

President Clinton and Republican leaders in Congress say they want to balance the federal budget by 2002. Which of the following actions would you support in order to balance the federal budget?

General population

	Total	Ideology				Education				Household Income			
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative		High School	High Sch Grad	Some College	College+	≤$15,000	$15,000 –35,000	$35,000 –60,000	≥$60,000
				Secular	Christian								
Raise taxes on liquor and cigarettes	64.6%	71.9%	65.1%	57.6%	62.2%	59.2%	61.9%	65.9%	68.5%	54.5%	58.6%	70.3%	70.8%
Cut welfare spending	55.9	40.6	50.8	76.1	61.1	35.9	58.5	59.2	59.0	43.9	59.0	54.8	60.9
No tax cuts until budget is balanced	44.3	43.0	52.4	44.5	41.5	38.4	39.7	44.1	46.6	43.7	49.9	38.0	45.6
Cut defense spending	34.4	38.6	38.2	33.2	31.0	22.0	33.9	34.0	39.1	34.8	37.4	30.8	37.9
Reduce the growth in cost for Medicaid	26.5	18.6	28.9	31.1	31.0	15.8	24.7	24.7	32.5	25.5	28.1	20.7	35.3
Reduce the growth in cost for Medicare	26.2	13.2	24.2	38.1	32.6	21.2	26.7	17.1	32.6	22.5	21.6	29.8	28.1
Raise gas tax 5¢	20.9	22.8	16.0	25.0	20.7	9.3	17.6	29.1	22.6	8.7	19.9	16.6	33.8
Cut CPI adjustment for Social Security	20.7	14.0	17.3	31.7	23.0	8.8	21.6	24.4	21.9	15.9	21.2	18.8	26.4
Cut education spending	8.2	4.3	1.8	21.4	8.2	9.3	6.7	10.2	7.9	8.1	6.4	9.1	7.2

Table 6

I'm going to read you some policy proposals that are now being discussed in Washington and around the country. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each proposal.

Balancing the federal budget	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know	*N*
Black	89.6%	8.8%	1.6%	850
Hispanic	100.0	0.0	0.0	100
White	96.0	3.7	0.3	728
Passing stronger restrictions on the sale and use of handguns	**Agree**	**Disagree**	**Don't Know**	***N***
Black	77.8%	20.6%	1.5%	850
Hispanic	74.5	25.5	0.0	100
White	70.2	27.4	2.4	728
Increasing defense spending	**Agree**	**Disagree**	**Don't Know**	***N***
Black	33.5%	63.1%	3.4%	850
Hispanic	46.9	50.3	2.8	100
White	36.6	58.3	5.1	728
Increasing government spending on prisons and law enforcement	**Agree**	**Disagree**	**Don't Know**	***N***
Black	51.1%	44.9%	4.0%	850
Hispanic	72.2	27.8	0.0	100
White	68.8	28.3	2.9	728
Providing food stamps to low-income legal immigrants	**Agree**	**Disagree**	**Don't Know**	***N***
Black	65.1%	30.3%	4.6%	850
Hispanic	71.3	27.2	1.5	100
White	51.3	47.3	1.3	728

Table 7

Would you rate your feelings toward Bill Clinton as very favorable, favorable, unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

	Black Population					General Population				
	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*
TOTAL	89.0%	1.2%	9.4%	0.3%	850	60.3%	2.6%	36.7%	0.4%	850
Black						91.4	2.0	6.6	0.0	80
Hispanic						77.8	7.2	15.0	0.0	100*
White						56.2	2.7	40.7	0.5	728
Other						70.6	1.5	27.8	0.0	31
Men	86.8	2.0	11.3	0.0	391	59.5	2.5	37.4	0.5	408
Women	90.9	0.6	7.9	0.6	459	60.9	2.7	36.0	0.4	443
18–25	88.3	2.7	9.0	0.0	125	66.7	1.2	31.2	0.9	85
26–35	86.0	0.0	12.4	1.6	176	68.2	2.5	28.4	0.9	171
36–50	89.9	1.6	8.5	0.0	268	56.7	4.7	38.3	0.3	301
51–64	87.8	1.7	10.5	0.0	161	55.7	0.0	44.0	0.3	172
65 and older	95.4	0.0	4.6	0.0	84	53.4	2.4	44.2	0.0	103
Northeast	86.8	0.0	13.2	0.0	169	67.8	1.7	30.0	0.6	135
Midwest	93.2	0.0	5.2	1.6	174	65.9	2.4	31.1	0.7	226
South	88.4	2.0	9.6	0.0	421	58.3	3.5	38.2	0.1	323
West	87.4	2.6	10.0	0.0	85	50.5	1.9	47.0	0.6	167
Liberal	90.6	1.2	8.1	0.0	281	86.0	2.2	11.0	0.7	204
Moderate	91.0	1.0	8.0	0.0	268	77.5	5.1	17.1	0.3	183
Secular conservative**	93.5	0.0	6.6	0.0	51	40.2	0.4	58.9	0.0	152
Christian conservative**	84.2	2.0	12.4	1.3	216	41.1	2.7	55.9	0.4	278
Democrat	90.8	0.4	8.3	0.4	700	80.2	1.7	11.2	0.7	395
Independent**	75.4	12.9	11.7	0.0	59	46.8	11.3	40.6	1.3	91
Republican	83.5	0.0	16.4	0.0	75	35.3	1.4	63.2	0.0	344

* The Hispanic oversample of 100 is weighted in the general population to reflect their share of the population.

** A Christian conservative is a self-identified conservative who on a follow-up question self-identifies as a Christian conservative; secular conservatives are the remainder of the self-identified conservatives. On partisanship, Independents who lean toward one of the major parties are grouped with the partisans.

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	Black Population					General Population				
	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*
Less than high school	88.7%	1.8%	9.4%	0.0%	179	78.1%	5.7%	15.1%	1.0%	98
High school graduate	88.2	2.6	8.2	1.0	278	61.5	0.6	36.7	1.1	245
Some college/technical school	88.4	0.0	11.6	0.0	204	58.4	2.4	39.3	0.0	185
College degree or more	91.6	0.0	8.4	0.0	169	54.1	3.3	42.6	0.0	316
Less than $15,000	95.6	0.0	4.4	0.0	130	78.9	1.5	19.7	0.0	83
$15,000–35,000	86.7	0.0	12.3	1.0	278	56.9	3.3	38.4	1.3	214
$35,000–60,000	92.1	1.8	6.1	0.0	243	61.7	0.0	38.3	0.0	284
More than $60,000	92.1	0.0	9.9	0.0	112	51.1	6.3	42.7	0.0	199

Table 8

Would you rate your feelings toward Al Gore as very favorable, favorable, unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

	Black Population					General Population				
	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*
TOTAL	67.8%	4.0%	15.1%	13.0%	850	53.2%	5.4%	35.7%	5.7%	850
Black						69.1	4.6	15.9	10.5	80
Hispanic						53.6	8.0	28.4	10.2	100*
White						51.3	5.2	38.4	5.1	728
Other						52.4	13.2	28.2	6.2	31
Men	68.1	5.4	14.9	11.6	391	50.1	4.3	41.2	4.5	408
Women	67.6	2.8	15.3	14.3	459	56.1	6.4	31.7	6.8	443
18–25	58.8	7.8	15.4	18.0	125	49.9	4.6	34.9	10.6	85
26–35	66.2	2.5	15.6	15.7	176	62.1	3.5	25.7	8.7	171
36-50	69.0	7.4	13.9	6.8	268	51.8	8.4	35.9	3.0	301
51–64	68.2	0.0	16.2	15.7	161	53.4	2.4	41.1	3.2	172
65 and older	75.5	0.0	12.5	12.1	84	44.7	6.3	45.2	3.9	103
Northeast	64.8	4.8	13.8	16.5	169	51.3	5.3	37.3	6.0	135
Midwest	67.8	4.2	14.2	15.6	174	56.2	6.3	31.1	6.4	226
South	69.9	4.4	14.5	11.3	421	52.8	3.1	37.8	6.4	323
West	63.3	3.5	23.3	10.0	85	51.5	8.8	36.9	2.9	167
Liberal	70.8	1.2	12.3	15.7	268	71.0	8.3	10.8	9.8	204
Moderate	66.7	7.6	15.4	10.4	268	68.1	7.2	20.5	4.1	183
Secular conservative**	68.3	7.3	0.0	24.4	51	39.5	2.2	54.9	3.4	152
Christian conservative**	64.7	3.0	25.1	7.2	216	40.8	4.5	51.3	3.5	278
Democrat	68.3	4.5	14.8	12.5	700	73.6	4.7	15.7	6.1	395
Independent**	62.1	4.6	16.6	16.6	59	51.5	13.1	26.3	9.0	91
Republican	64.3	0.0	21.4	14.2	75	32.7	4.1	59.3	4.0	344

* The Hispanic oversample of 100 is weighted in the general population to reflect their share of the population.

** A Christian conservative is a self-identified conservative who on a follow-up question self-identifies as a Christian conservative; secular conservatives are the remainder of the self-identified conservatives. On partisanship, Independents who lean toward one of the major parties are grouped with the partisans.

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	Black Population					General Population				
	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*
Less than high school	67.5	5.7	10.4	8.3	179	59.0	7.5	15.0	18.5	98
High school graduate	63.6	0.0	20.6	3.2	278	54.9	3.1	38.6	5.3	245
Some college/technical school	65.6	7.7	13.6	0.0	204	52.1	8.1	35.5	4.2	185
College degree or more	78.1	4.8	12.2	0.0	169	52.0	5.0	40.4	2.6	316
Less than $15,000	72.8	3.3	10.5	13.5	130	72.7	1.3	15.1	11.0	83
$15,000–35,000	67.9	2.5	18.4	11.2	278	51.6	9.5	31.5	7.5	214
$35,000–60,000	69.4	7.5	14.0	9.1	243	46.6	2.7	38.5	2.2	284
More than $60,000	74.5	3.9	12.2	0.0	112	55.5	7.5	34.3	2.8	199

Table 9

Would you rate your feelings toward Jesse Jackson as very favorable, favorable, unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

	Black Population					General Population				
	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*
TOTAL	86.6%	3.2%	8.1%	2.1%	850	36.2%	11.7%	44.7%	7.4%	850
Black						77.4	4.6	10.9	7.0	80
Hispanic						67.8	10.8	11.2	10.1	100*
White						29.9	12.8	50.0	7.3	728
Other						65.6	4.8	20.2	9.4	31
Men	82.5	5.4	9.0	3.1	391	35.0	11.2	48.5	5.4	408
Women	90.2	1.4	7.2	1.2	459	37.4	12.2	41.2	9.1	443
18–25	86.2	5.3	5.8	0.0	125	43.9	6.1	43.4	6.7	85
26–35	88.2	2.5	11.3	0.0	176	36.3	17.3	42.1	4.4	171
36–50	81.2	2.6	5.3	3.9	268	35.2	12.9	46.9	4.8	301
51–64	87.1	5.8	10.2	2.7	161	31.8	11.0	44.8	12.5	172
65 and older	91.6	0.0	9.6	3.3	84	35.0	6.7	49.3	9.0	103
Northeast	91.6	2.6	5.8	0.0	169	40.8	10.7	46.1	2.5	135
Midwest	88.6	1.9	5.4	4.1	175	35.8	10.9	41.8	11.6	226
South	84.7	4.2	9.0	2.0	421	39.3	11.6	41.4	7.8	323
West	81.8	2.2	13.5	2.4	85	27.3	13.8	54.0	4.8	167
Liberal	88.8	0.0	7.4	3.7	268	48.5	18.4	25.5	7.6	204
Moderate	83.7	7.8	8.5	0.0	268	45.0	12.0	34.7	8.2	183
Secular conservative**	87.2	0.0	12.8	0.0	51	21.5	7.7	67.0	3.8	152
Christian conservative**	81.5	1.5	9.0	2.0	216	29.1	9.6	54.6	6.7	278
Democrat	88.5	3.5	6.6	0.0	700	46.1	14.0	33.1	6.8	395
Independent**	71.4	0.0	21.3	0.0	59	40.3	9.5	37.7	12.5	91
Republican	86.8	4.5	8.7	0.0	75	25.0	9.7	58.9	6.4	344

* The Hispanic oversample of 100 is weighted in the general population to reflect their share of the population.

** A Christian conservative is a self-identified conservative who on a follow-up question self-identifies as a Christian conservative; secular conservatives are the remainder of the self-identified conservatives. On partisanship, Independents who lean toward one of the major parties are grouped with the partisans.

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	Black Population					General Population				
	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*
Less than high school	85.4%	3.7%	6.9%	4.0%	181	58.4%	2.7%	20.6%	18.4%	98
High school graduate	88.8	2.4	6.1	2.8	280	38.5	6.3	47.5	7.8	245
Some college/technical school	85.8	3.0	11.2	0.0	201	33.4	12.0	49.5	5.1	185
College degree or over	83.8	4.8	9.8	1.6	169	29.0	18.7	48.2	4.1	316
Less than $15,000	82.3	2.5	8.3	6.8	130	53.7	3.4	35.0	7.9	83
$15,000–35,000	89.6	1.2	9.3	0.0	278	47.8	8.2	36.5	7.3	214
$35,000–60,000	88.4	5.2	4.6	1.8	243	22.5	13.3	61.5	2.7	284
More than $60,000	76.7	7.2	12.2	3.9	112	35.8	17.6	39.4	7.2	199

Table 10

Would you rate your feelings toward Colin Powell as very favorable, favorable, unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

	Black Population					General Population				
	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	N	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	N
TOTAL	69.7%	0.8%	11.0%	18.5%	850	76.4%	3.4%	8.6%	11.5%	850
Black						69.7	3.1	16.0	11.1	80
Hispanic						54.9	8.5	13.3	23.2	100*
White						78.4	2.6	7.9	11.1	728
Other						53.7	19.9	6.4	20.1	31
Men	70.6	1.1	14.7	13.5	391	80.0	3.4	7.7	8.8	408
Women	69.0	0.6	7.8	22.6	459	73.0	3.5	9.5	14.1	443
18–25	65.4	2.2	7.5	24.9	125	57.0	3.6	20.2	19.1	85
26–35	73.5	2.5	5.2	18.8	176	72.8	5.8	7.3	14.2	171
36–50	71.9	0.0	14.6	13.5	268	80.5	2.8	8.7	8.0	301
51–64	70.1	0.0	13.0	16.9	161	80.6	3.0	5.6	10.8	172
65 and older	64.1	0.0	17.5	18.4	84	81.0	2.9	5.2	11.0	103
Northeast	74.7	2.6	11.9	10.8	169	73.9	4.0	11.7	10.5	135
Midwest	62.5	0.0	11.7	25.9	174	74.8	4.1	8.2	12.9	226
South	69.8	0.4	9.6	20.2	421	77.5	3.4	8.2	10.9	323
West	74.3	1.1	15.0	9.6	85	78.5	2.3	7.5	11.7	167
Liberal	66.6	0.0	15.2	18.3	268	65.2	5.7	16.7	12.3	204
Moderate	75.9	2.7	10.8	10.6	268	74.6	3.0	9.6	12.7	183
Secular conservative**	67.5	0.0	0.0	32.5	51	81.2	2.4	8.3	8.2	152
Christian conservative**	71.9	0.0	9.6	18.5	216	85.8	3.1	2.8	8.2	278
Democrat	71.8	1.0	11.5	15.6	700	72.9	3.8	12.4	10.8	395
Independent**	67.7	0.0	11.1	21.0	59	64.7	2.6	5.0	27.7	91
Republican	61.5	0.0	8.7	29.7	75	83.1	3.5	5.7	7.7	344

* The Hispanic oversample of 100 is weighted in the general population to reflect their share of the population.

** A Christian conservative is a self-identified conservative who on a follow-up question self-identifies as a Christian conservative; secular conservatives are the remainder of the self-identified conservatives. On partisanship, Independents who lean toward one of the major parties are grouped with the partisans.

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	Black Population					General Population				
	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*
Less than high school	61.1%	0.0%	10.6%	28.2%	179	63.7%	5.7%	13.5%	17.0%	98
High school graduate	68.0	0.0	11.4	20.6	278	76.4	1.1	11.2	11.2	245
Some college/technical school	74.6	1.4	9.9	14.2	204	73.6	4.2	10.8	11.3	185
College degree or more	77.8	2.6	13.4	6.2	169	82.1	4.2	4.0	9.8	316
Less than 15,000	57.2	0.0	8.5	34.3	130	72.1	0.5	7.0	20.6	83
$15,000–35,000	71.8	0.0	14.4	13.9	278	75.7	5.0	6.2	13.1	214
$35,000–60,000	75.4	1.1	6.6	16.9	243	75.1	2.2	2.2	8.8	284
More than $60,000	75.1	3.9	15.6	5.4	110	82.5	5.0	5.6	6.9	199

Table 11

Would you rate your feelings toward Trent Lott as very favorable, favorable, unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

	Black Population					General Population				
	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	N	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	N
TOTAL	13.1%	2.0%	5.0%	80.0%	850	21.7%	3.5%	5.4%	69.4%	850
Black						10.8	3.1	4.4	81.6	80
Hispanic						10.4	0.0	5.1	83.8	100*
White						23.1	3.7	5.5	67.6	728
Other						22.8	0.0	4.5	72.7	31
Men	17.2	3.7	5.6	73.5	391	30.4	4.0	7.5	58.2	408
Women	9.5	0.6	4.4	85.4	459	13.7	3.1	3.5	79.8	443
18–25	8.0	0.0	11.5	80.5	125	23.4	0.4	2.0	75.1	85
26–35	16.9	2.5	4.1	76.6	176	13.7	3.9	2.0	80.3	171
36–50	13.0	2.5	5.2	79.3	268	20.0	3.1	3.1	73.7	301
51–64	11.7	2.1	2.3	84.0	161	24.8	5.7	13.1	56.4	172
65 and older	17.5	3.3	3.9	75.3	84	34.9	2.8	7.6	54.7	103
Northeast	5.6	2.6	1.6	90.2	169	13.6	3.3	9.7	73.4	135
Midwest	7.3	0.0	5.1	87.6	174	14.5	5.7	4.4	75.5	226
South	17.8	2.8	6.1	73.3	421	29.0	3.5	6.5	61.0	323
West	16.1	1.3	6.1	76.5	85	24.0	0.8	1.2	74.1	167
Liberal	14.6	0.0	5.0	80.5	268	12.3	2.5	3.8	81.4	204
Moderate	13.0	3.9	5.8	77.3	268	21.7	4.8	6.5	66.9	183
Secular conservative**	12.1	0.0	5.5	82.5	51	31.1	1.1	4.8	63.1	152
Christian conservative**	10.6	3.0	5.0	81.4	216	24.6	5.1	5.6	63.6	278
Democrat	11.4	2.4	5.7	80.5	700	16.3	2.8	8.4	72.5	395
Independent**	14.8	0.0	0.0	85.2	59	9.4	5.7	4.0	81.0	91
Republican	29.7	0.0	3.7	66.5	75	30.3	3.9	2.7	63.1	344

* The Hispanic oversample of 100 is weighted in the general population to reflect their share of the population.

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	Black Population					General Population				
	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*
Less than high school	8.8%	3.4%	3.9%	83.9%	179	12.5%	2.0%	6.2%	78.3%	98
High school graduate	17.0	1.2	4.0	77.9	278	19.5	2.3	3.5	74.8	245
Some college/technical school	9.4	1.7	3.6	85.3	204	18.4	2.1	7.0	72.6	185
College degree or more	17.0	2.6	10.1	70.3	169	28.0	5.8	5.8	60.4	316
Less than $15,000	24.3	0.0	5.0	70.7	130	17.0	1.9	12.0	69.1	83
$15,000–35,000	8.4	1.0	6.4	84.3	278	17.3	2.7	4.7	75.3	214
$35,000–60,000	13.3	2.7	3.9	80.2	243	24.3	4.4	1.8	69.5	284
More than $60,000	15.3	6.9	7.9	70.0	112	26.7	4.4	8.0	61.0	199

Note: In the black sample, 47.7 percent of all those surveyed had never heard of Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R–MS); in the general population sample, 42.4 percent had never heard of Lott.

Table 12

Would you rate your feelings toward J.C. Watts as very favorable, favorable, unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

	Black Population					General Population				
	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*
TOTAL	16.4%	2.0%	8.3%	73.4%	850	16.7%	3.3%	8.3%	71.8%	850
Black						14.9	5.1	9.3	70.7	80
Hispanic						18.5	8.7	8.1	64.7	100*
White						16.4	2.9	8.5	72.2	728
Other						28.9	1.3	1.3	78.5	31
Men	18.8	2.8	10.5	68.1	391	25.2	3.9	8.5	62.4	408
Women	14.5	1.2	6.4	77.8	459	8.9	2.7	8.0	80.4	443
18-25	17.7	2.2	7.5	72.6	125	13.5	2.1	9.7	74.7	85
26–35	21.3	2.5	6.0	70.2	176	15.3	2.2	2.3	80.1	171
36–50	13.6	2.3	9.3	74.9	268	18.1	3.9	8.4	69.8	301
51–64	15.9	0.0	9.5	74.6	161	15.0	2.3	11.3	71.3	172
65 and older	15.7	3.9	12.5	67.9	84	21.5	6.4	5.6	66.4	103
Northeast	13.0	2.6	7.9	76.5	169	10.0	3.2	3.5	83.2	135
Midwest	12.7	0.0	3.5	83.8	174	15.0	3.2	10.8	71.1	226
South	19.9	2.5	9.0	68.8	421	19.3	4.5	9.4	66.8	323
West	13.9	2.2	15.7	68.2	85	19.4	0.9	6.5	73.2	167
Liberal	18.6	0.0	9.3	72.1	268	6.8	3.4	8.1	81.7	204
Moderate	19.8	3.9	3.3	73.0	268	16.8	6.9	5.6	70.5	183
Secular conservative**	5.5	5.5	6.6	82.5	51	24.9	1.0	9.5	64.6	152
Christian conservative**	14.0	1.5	15.4	69.1	218	21.1	2.4	10.5	66.0	278
Democrat	13.6	2.4	9.6	74.4	700	10.7	4.3	8.2	76.8	395
Independent**	32.3	0.0	5.5	62.1	59	10.6	8.0	3.8	77.6	91
Republican	33.4	0.0	0.0	66.6	75	25.0	1.0	9.9	64.1	344

* The Hispanic oversample of 100 is weighted in the general population to reflect their share of the population.

** A Christian conservative is a self-identified conservative who on a follow-up question self-identifies as a Christian conservative; secular conservatives are the remainder of the self-identified conservatives. On partisanship, Independents who lean toward one of the major parties are grouped with the partisans.

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	Black Population					General Population				
	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*
Less than high school	**18.9%**	**4.9%**	**6.0%**	**70.2%**	**181**	**13.3%**	**4.6%**	**14.2%**	**67.9%**	**98**
High school graduate	17.9	0.0	9.4	72.6	280	17.1	1.3	7.3	74.2	245
Some college/technical school	11.6	0.0	8.3	80.1	201	12.6	2.4	5.3	79.7	185
College degree or more	18.9	4.6	7.2	69.4	169	20.1	4.9	8.7	66.3	316
Less than $15,000	16.0	0.0	5.0	77.8	130	9.3	2.9	6.8	81.1	83
$15,000–35,000	19.3	0.0	6.4	68.9	278	16.0	4.9	4.7	72.3	214
$35,000–60,000	20.9	2.3	3.9	72.9	243	19.2	0.9	14.6	65.4	284
More than $60,000	9.7	9.8	7.9	66.7	112	18.9	4.7	5.1	71.4	199

Note: In the black sample, 42.2 percent of all those surveyed had never heard of U.S. Representative J.C. Watts (R–OK); in the general population sample, 40.4 percent had never heard of Watts.

Table 13

Would you rate your feelings toward Newt Gingrich as very favorable, favorable, unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

	Black Population					General Population				
	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*
TOTAL	17.4%	6.6%	52.4%	23.7%	850	32.5%	8.5%	50.6%	8.4%	850
Black						21.7	1.4	58.0	18.8	80
Hispanic						20.2	8.6	54.4	25.3	100*
White						34.8	8.8	50.4	6.0	728
Other						11.2	21.3	35.9	31.6	31
Men	18.7	7.6	56.5	17.3	391	39.7	8.9	45.5	5.9	408
Women	16.3	5.6	48.8	29.2	459	25.8	8.2	55.5	10.6	443
18–25	16.3	11.1	50.6	22.0	125	38.7	4.1	45.6	11.6	85
26–35	19.9	7.3	43.3	29.5	176	26.6	6.8	54.3	12.4	171
36–50	16.2	6.3	58.5	19.1	268	33.6	7.7	51.8	6.9	301
51–64	14.5	3.7	54.8	27.1	161	37.8	9.4	44.3	8.6	172
65 and older	15.7	2.2	61.7	20.4	84	26.0	13.5	58.8	1.8	103
Northeast	13.5	6.8	64.4	15.5	169	34.9	6.1	53.6	5.6	135
Midwest	18.2	8.1	48.1	25.5	174	26.9	11.7	53.7	7.7	226
South	18.0	6.4	47.9	27.8	421	32.6	7.8	51.7	7.9	323
West	20.6	3.7	59.5	16.2	85	38.0	7.7	42.0	12.3	167
Liberal	19.9	4.8	57.3	18.0	268	14.5	8.7	69.1	8.7	204
Moderate	8.3	7.6	63.4	20.7	268	17.1	7.6	65.3	10.0	183
Secular conservative**	25.1	5.5	24.8	44.6	51	43.1	9.7	41.6	5.7	152
Christian conservative**	25.2	9.0	41.2	24.6	216	51.1	8.4	35.3	5.3	278
Democrat	15.1	8.0	55.1	21.8	700	14.6	5.5	70.2	9.6	395
Independent**	22.8	0.0	63.4	13.9	59	29.8	14.4	47.3	8.5	91
Republican	38.5	0.0	23.7	38.0	75	54.3	9.9	30.9	5.0	344

* The Hispanic oversample of 100 is weighted in the general population to reflect their share of the population.

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	Black Population					General Population				
	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*
Less than high school	11.4%	7.7%	37.1%	18.1%	179	12.7%	9.5%	54.9%	22.8%	98
High school graduate	21.1	4.2	44.9	12.0	278	33.1	4.8	50.4	11.7	245
Some college/technical school	17.4	12.2	52.2	4.2	204	36.6	9.6	50.6	3.2	185
College degree or more	15.8	3.3	60.1	1.6	169	35.4	10.6	49.9	4.1	316
Less than $15,000	18.6	3.5	44.2	33.7	130	16.4	4.2	56.8	22.7	83
$15,000–35,000	13.8	8.1	54.1	24.1	278	29.9	8.7	50.7	10.8	214
$35,000–60,000	21.6	7.8	50.4	20.1	243	38.6	7.6	49.1	4.6	284
More than $60,000	17.4	8.5	63.9	10.2	112	35.1	9.9	51.5	3.5	199

* The Hispanic oversample of 100 is weighted in the general population to reflect their share of the population.

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Table 14

Would you rate your feelings toward Louis Farrakhan as very favorable, favorable, unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

	Black Population					General Population				
	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*
TOTAL	40.1%	5.0%	36.8%	18.0%	850	7.7%	3.4%	56.4%	32.5%	850
Black						42.2	6.1	32.0	19.7	80
Hispanic						17.6	8.7	32.1	41.6	100*
White						3.6	2.7	59.4	34.4	728
Other						12.2	13.1	51.4	23.4	31
Men	44.9	6.2	37.0	11.9	391	9.6	3.3	65.7	21.3	408
Women	35.8	4.2	36.7	23.2	459	6.0	3.6	47.8	42.8	443
18–25	51.3	4.9	34.0	9.8	125	13.2	5.5	37.5	43.8	85
26–35	41.0	4.1	43.6	11.4	176	13.2	3.3	49.0	34.4	171
36–50	39.4	4.5	41.2	14.7	268	6.0	4.3	58.7	31.1	301
51–64	39.0	7.6	26.8	26.8	161	6.0	1.5	63.3	29.2	172
65 and older	22.9	7.2	37.0	38.5	84	3.1	3.4	62.1	31.3	103
Northeast	45.4	7.5	37.0	10.1	169	8.8	8.1	64.8	18.3	135
Midwest	39.9	1.9	36.8	21.4	174	6.1	2.4	56.3	35.2	226
South	38.5	5.9	34.9	20.7	421	7.3	2.2	57.7	32.8	323
West	37.2	3.5	45.8	13.5	85	9.8	3.6	47.0	39.6	167
Liberal	31.7	4.6	42.4	21.4	268	6.0	7.4	39.0	37.6	204
Moderate	37.9	11.8	39.9	10.5	268	5.7	4.8	54.3	35.2	183
Secular conservative**	46.8	0.0	39.4	13.9	51	5.0	0.8	71.7	22.4	152
Christian conservative**	52.7	0.0	29.0	18.2	216	11.7	1.3	56.7	30.0	278
Democrat	42.3	12.7	35.4	16.6	700	9.6	5.2	47.7	35.4	395
Independent**	25.0	10.8	54.1	15.4	59	8.3	1.9	51.2	38.6	91
Republican	39.4	3.7	36.9	23.7	75	5.5	1.9	65.9	26.7	344

* The Hispanic oversample of 100 is weighted in the general population to reflect their share of the population.

** A Christian conservative is a self-identified conservative who on a follow-up question self-identifies as a Christian conservative; secular conservatives are the remainder of the self-identified conservatives. On partisanship, Independents who lean toward one of the major parties are grouped with the partisans.

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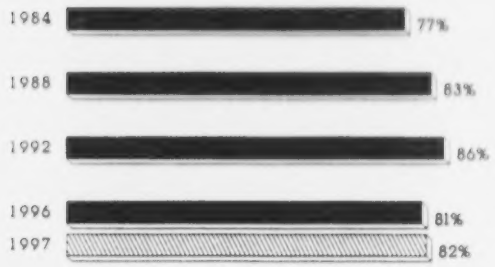
	Black Population					General Population				
	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable	Don't Know	*N*
Less than high school	34.7%	5.2%	29.9%	30.1%	179	13.5%	3.2%	42.9%	40.4%	98
High school graduate	40.7	3.0	4.1.2	15.2	278	7.0	1.5	47.6	43.8	245
Some college/technical school	41.7	7.7	40.9	9.7	204	9.8	3.3	54.5	32.3	185
College degree or more	43.7	6.2	31.9	18.2	169	5.4	5.1	68.3	21.1	316
Less than $15,000	50.1	0.0	19.5	30.3	130	20.0	3.5	39.5	36.9	83
$15,000–35,000	33.3	4.6	42.8	19.3	278	7.4	6.4	45.9	40.3	214
$35,000–60,000	47.3	7.3	33.2	12.2	243	7.6	0.9	62.5	29.1	284
More than $60,000	41.4	6.9	41.1	10.5	112	3.9	4.5	66.6	24.9	199

Figure 1

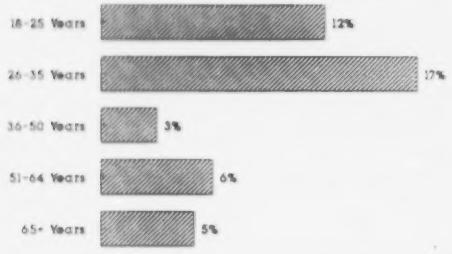
Black partisanship

Figure 1a. Democratic Partisanship in Joint Center Surveys, 1984-1997



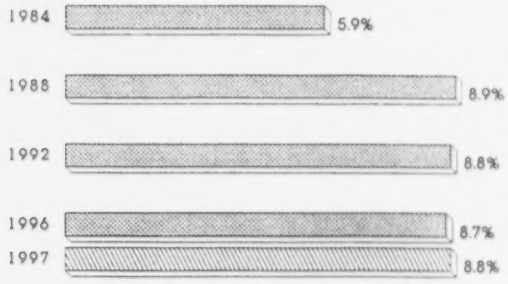
Self-Identified Democratic Partisanship
(Independents Leaning Democratic Included)

Figure 1b. Republican Partisanship By Age Cohort, Joint Center 1997 Survey



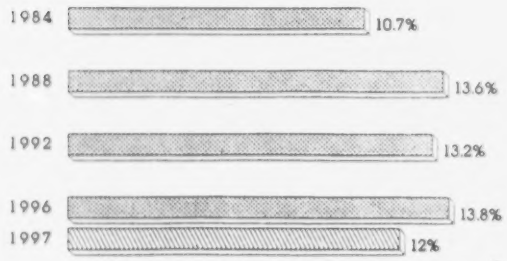
Self-Identified Republican Partisanship
(Independents Leaning Republican Included)

Figure 1c. Republican Partisanship in Joint Center Surveys, 1984-1997



Self-Identified Republican Partisanship
(Independents Leaning Republican Included)

Figure 1d. Republican Partisanship in Joint Center Surveys, 1984-1997 18-25 Year Old Age Cohort



Self-Identified Republican Partisanship
(Independents Leaning Republican Included)

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Figure 2

Ideology

Figure 2a. Self-Identified Ideology Black Population Sample

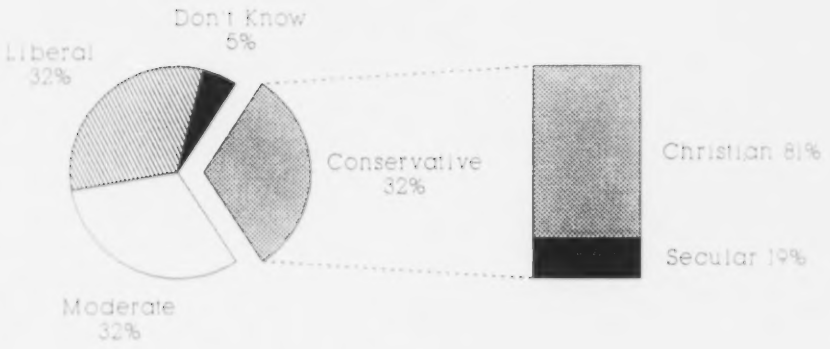

Figure 2b. Self-Identified Ideology General Population Sample

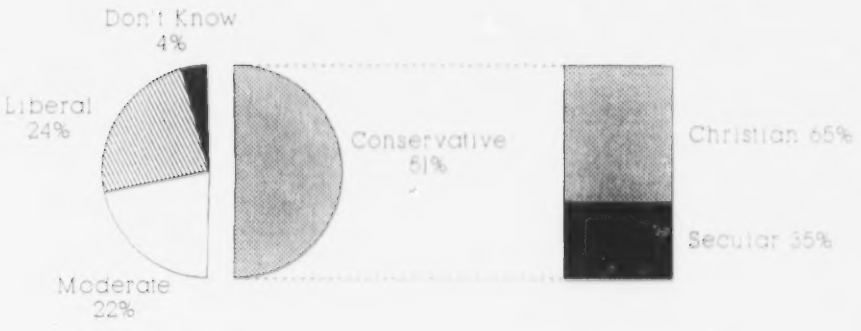

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Figure 3

Feelings toward public figures/name recognition—
black sample

Figure 3a. Feelings Toward Public Figures Black Sample

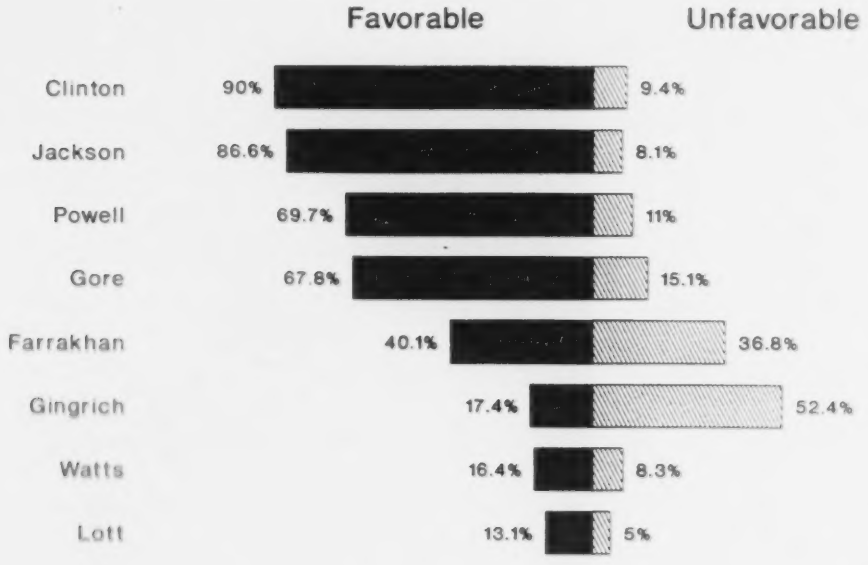


Figure 3b. Name Recognition Black Sample

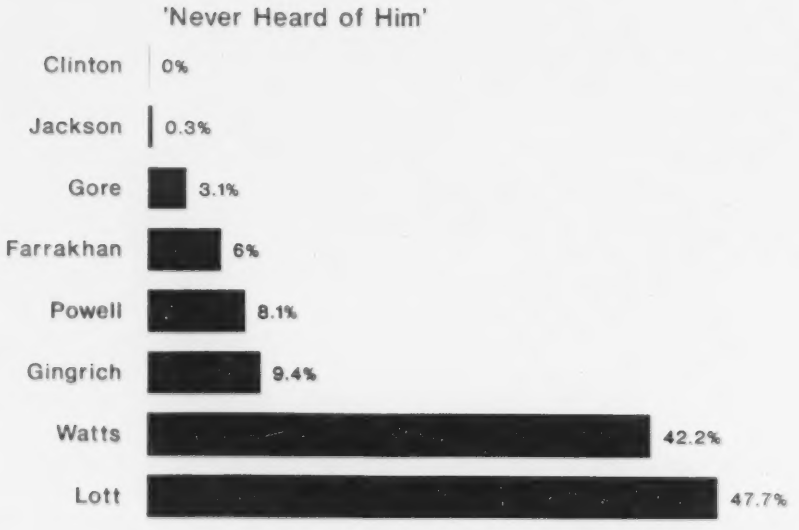


Figure 4

Feelings toward public figures/name recognition—
general population sample

Figure 4a. Feelings Toward Public Figures General Population Sample

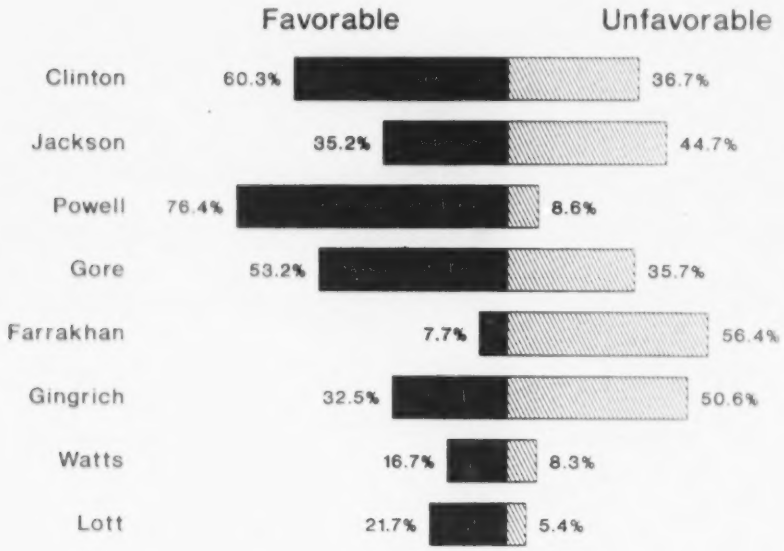
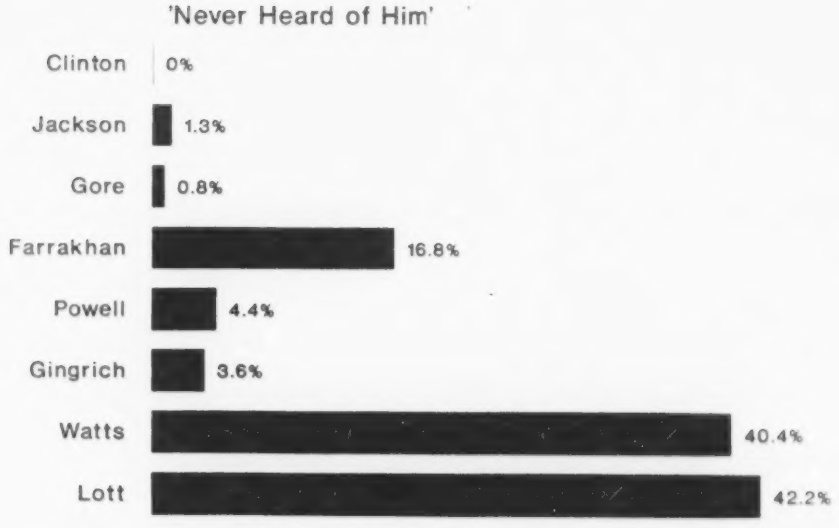


Figure 4b. Name Recognition General Population Sample



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